

Compliance Report  
2000 Okinawa  
**Conflict Prevention**

**Commitment**

Para. 73: “We express special concern that the proceeds from the illicit trade in diamonds have contributed to aggravating armed conflict and humanitarian crises, particularly in Africa. We therefore call for an international conference, whose results shall be submitted to the UN, building on the UN Security Council Resolution 1306 and inter alia the ‘Kimberley’ process launched by the Government of South Africa, to consider practical approaches to breaking the link between the illicit trade in diamonds and armed conflict, including consideration of an international agreement on certification for rough diamonds.”

**Assessment**

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Lack of Compliance<br/>-1</b> | <b>Work in Progress<br/>0</b> | <b>Full Compliance<br/>+1</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Britain        |                                  |                               | +1                            |
| Canada         |                                  |                               | +1                            |
| France         |                                  |                               | +1                            |
| Germany        |                                  |                               | +1                            |
| Italy          |                                  | 0                             |                               |
| Japan          |                                  | 0                             |                               |
| Russia         |                                  | 0                             |                               |
| United States  |                                  |                               | +1                            |
| <b>Overall</b> |                                  |                               | <b>+1</b>                     |

**Britain**

Britain has played a seminal role in all aspects of the Kimberly Process. Britain initially rallied support for a technical forum on rough diamond certification in Kimberly, and then acted as a vocal proponent of the process at the International Diamond Ministerial in Pretoria, South Africa. Moreover, it also jointly supported adding conflict diamonds to the agenda of the G8 Summit in Okinawa. Britain also hosted the London Inter-Governmental Meeting on Conflict Diamonds—a meeting conceived in Okinawa to explore ways to break the link between conflicts and illicit diamonds. Britain also provided leadership in crafting and ratifying UN General Assembly

Resolution 56 intended to diminish or eliminate the role of diamonds in fuelling conflicts. Lastly, Britain has also shown support for the nascent workshop in Windhoek, Namibia, aimed at developing certification guidelines for rough diamonds.

## **Canada**

Canada has been a vocal advocate for breaking the link between illicit diamonds and conflict. In September 2000, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien stated that there was a need to “deny the agents of violence and conflict their sources of supply,” particularly through methods such as “controlling the illicit trade in diamonds.” Canada’s official position on this issue was further solidified in a January 25, 2001, statement by Michel Duval, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, who stated that “We reiterate our support for international efforts to devise effective and pragmatic measures to eliminate conflict diamonds, with a particular focus on proposals for an international certification scheme for rough diamonds.”

As a participant in the Kimberley Process, Canada co-sponsored, along with the UK, the concluding international ministerial conference in Pretoria in September 2000. At this meeting, a working group established in May 2000 put forth proposals for a global certification process. On October 25–26 of that year, Canada participated in the London Conference along with representatives of 36 other governments involved in the processing, exporting, and importing of rough diamonds. This conference sought to foster greater international support for breaking the link between illicit diamonds and conflict as well as increasing dialogue on a possible certification regime. The international consensus and support forged in London led to the General Assembly Resolution 56 on December 1, 2000, sponsored by Canada, which reaffirmed the G8 Okinawa commitment to break the link between rough diamonds, particularly through an international certification process. Namibia has agreed to host an international technical conference to discuss the certification process in February 2001, the results of were reported back to the UN General Assembly.

In addition to the global certification process, the Canadian government has also sought to eliminate conflict diamonds through improving the sanctions policy of the United Nations. As chair of the Angola Sanctions Committee, Canada has recommended that the United Nations develop a more systematic approach to monitoring sanctions. Canada asserts that this method would better detect violations of Security Council measures, such as the export of conflict diamonds, rather than the case-by-case approach currently adopted.

## France

Although France is not a major exporter, importer, or processor of diamonds internationally, it has nonetheless played an active role in global efforts to break the illicit trade of diamonds through its position as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. As an active member of the UN Panel of Experts that examined the link between the sale of diamonds and conflicts in Angola, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and through its role as the rotating president of the European Union during the first stages of the Kimberley Process, France was able to further the issue of illicit diamond trading through its membership in such critical international forums.

France attended and supported the proposals of the London Intergovernmental Conference in October 2000, which examined several means of breaking the link between conflict and illicit diamonds. It also supported and ratified General Assembly Resolution 56, which built on the proposals of the London conference and laid the groundwork for a forum to establish an international diamond certification scheme. Furthermore, as the president of the EU in the last six months of 2000, France was charged with speaking on behalf of EU members during important debates at the UN General Assembly on the issue of illicit diamond trading.

However, although the French government officially has endorsed and supported all international efforts since the Kimberley Process began, it has also used this issue to bring a less punitive approach to sanctions against leaders of “blood diamond” nations. For example, France fought for the inclusion of a sunset clause on UN sanctions against Liberia, which resulted in accusations by many non-governmental organizations of a self-serving French policy of supporting sanctions on the sale of diamonds, but rejecting sanctions against other areas of the Liberian economy such as timber (France is Liberia’s largest importer of timber). However, France’s concern about sanctions against Liberia reflected their overall view of punitive sanctions, which, in the opinion of the French government, had in the past been destructive to many innocent civilians. As such, France fought hard and won support for the more limited but flexible sanctions that it believed allowed the UN Security Council to measure their effectiveness more consistently. This approach enabled the international community to target the leaders of these blood diamond nations directly, thus avoiding the unnecessary suffering of innocent civilians through punitive sanctions.

While France has been criticized certain aspects of international sanctions on this issue, its constructive and vocal approach has nonetheless supported all major initiatives taken by the international community to break the link between conflict and illicit diamonds. Since France is not a major exporting, importing, or processing nation of diamonds, it will most likely assume a more diminished role on this issue in the future as the targets become more specific and the impetus is placed on exporting, importing, and processing nations to take action. Since Okinawa, however, France has been an active participant in the important progress spearheaded by the G8 in breaking the link between armed conflict and the international trade of illicit diamonds.

## Germany

As part of its regional African policy, which aims to promote democracy, order, and stability in the region, Germany has supported all efforts undertaken by the UN and the EU to halt the sale of illicit diamonds responsible for financing and prolonging conflicts that threaten democracy and stability in many parts of Africa. Since the issue of conflict prevention has been a key foreign policy priority of the current Red-Green coalition, Germany has been an active member of concerted international efforts aimed at finding a final solution to the illegal sale of raw diamonds used to finance conflicts in states under civil strife including Angola and Sierra Leone.

However, because Germany is not a major exporting, importing, or processing state on the international diamond market, its influence on finding a solution to “blood diamonds” is limited. Due to its incapacity to exert a meaningful leadership role on this issue, the German government has instead employed a supportive approach to all international efforts, including the establishment of an international diamond certification scheme, and has promoted its policy on this issue through multilateral organizations such as the UN, the EU, and the G8. Germany attended the London Intergovernmental Conference in October 2000, which examined ways to break the link between conflict and illicit diamonds. Germany further supported UN General Assembly Resolution 56, which built on the proposals of the London conference and laid the groundwork for a forum on establishing an international diamond certification scheme at Windhoek, Namibia, in February 2001.

As part of its approach on this issue, Germany endorsed all international efforts aimed at attacking the sources of prolonged conflicts created as a result of the financing of illicit diamonds in several African countries. At a conference in Berlin in November 2000 devoted to the new regional foreign policy of the German government in Africa—hosted by the German government and attended by members of the EU, South Africa, and other African nations—Germany reaffirmed the role played by diamonds in financing conflicts in Africa, and called for an immediate end to this situation in an effort to promote democracy and stability on that continent. Furthermore, the German government has also taken the lead on pushing major international diamond cartels such as De Beers in adopting similar measures.

Overall, Germany has played a constructive and supportive role in international efforts aimed at limiting the role of illicit diamonds in fuelling armed conflicts. However, while Germany’s role to curb the sales of illegal diamonds has been very positive to date, its role will most likely be reduced even further as the process moves to more specific and ambitious targets, in which the major exporting, importing, and processing nations of diamonds will have to assume the lead on this issue.

## **Italy**

Although Italy has not been at the forefront of the movement to eliminate conflict diamonds, it has been involved in some of the more important international efforts to push this agenda forward. Italy was among the 36 countries at the London Intergovernmental Conference in October 2000 and played a key role in the discussions about the need to break the link between illicit diamonds and conflict. Italy further supported the subsequent December 1, 2001, General Assembly Resolution 56 which confirmed international support for this issue. The General Assembly resolution reaffirmed the commitment made by the G8 in Okinawa to break the link between illicit diamonds and conflict, particularly through the development of an international certification process.

## **Japan**

Japan's commitment to conflict prevention has been most pronounced in its involvement in Africa; a continent that, according to the Japanese, has been a leading source of conflicts resulting from the illicit trade of rough diamonds. Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori demonstrated his commitment to the issue of illicit diamond trading during a series of bilateral visits to Africa in the post-Okinawa period. In his discussions with African state leaders during these bilaterals, the Prime Minister promoted support for the work of Economic Cooperation of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Kimberley Process. On more than one occasion during these bilaterals, Prime Minister Mori stressed the importance of resolving the issues pertaining to natural resources such as diamonds in terms of conflict prevention.

Japan, along with its G8 partners and 36 other countries, was present at the October 2000 London Intergovernmental Conference on Diamonds and Conflict. In addition, on December 1, 2000, Japan voted in favour of unanimously adopting UN General Assembly resolution 55/56, aimed at breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict, as a contribution to the prevention and settlement of armed conflicts.

## **Russia**

As the world's second largest diamond producer, Russia initially approached proposals for an international certification scheme cautiously in the post-Okinawa period, sensing that these measures might extend too far in terms of intervening in Russia's domestic politics. However, in spite of its initial position, Russia has taken decisive action to halt the illegal trade in diamonds used to finance protracted violent conflict, particularly in countries such as Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Further to its Okinawa pledge to establish an international conference that would build on the Kimberley Process, Russia reinforced this

commitment by attending and contributing to the meeting of experts in Windhoek, Namibia (September 4–5), the ministerial meeting in Pretoria (September 19–20), and, subsequently, the London Intergovernmental Conference on Diamonds and Conflict in October. At London, practical approaches aimed at breaking the link between the illicit trade in diamonds and armed conflict were considered, as an increased international consensus among a broader array of states on the need to drive forward the Kimberly Process was reached. In December, Russia declared to the UN General Assembly that it was working on concluding the preparation and launching of a national certification system for rough diamonds. Finally, as an active participant in the London Intergovernmental Conference on Diamonds and Conflict and as an endorser of the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/56, Russia supported the initiative of the government of Namibia to host further expert discussions on the development of certification guidelines for rough diamonds.

### **United States**

The U.S. initiated leadership towards exploring ways of preventing conflicts fuelled by diamonds by jointly leading the initiative to place conflict diamonds on the agenda of the G8 Summit in Okinawa. Following Okinawa, the U.S. hosted an international conference in Washington that focused on economies of war, which, inter alia, opened a direct dialogue with diamond officials from Botswana and Angola. At Kimberly, the U.S. reached an agreement on principles with Belgium and Britain on key aspects of the Kimberly Process. Moreover, it jointly led an initiative that guided the World Diamond Council in establishing a “chain of warranties” to hedge against illicit diamonds. In addition, it contributed to the communiqué of the London Intergovernmental Meeting—a conference conceived of at the G8 Okinawa Summit and intended to further the momentum of the Kimberly Process by exploring ways to de-link conflicts and illicit diamonds. Finally, the U.S. not only ratified UN General Assembly Resolution 56 (aimed at mitigating the role of diamonds in fuelling conflicts), but also pledged to the General Assembly that it would advance the process of creating certification guidelines for rough diamonds at the international technical conference and workshop in Windhoek, Namibia.

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