

December 7, 2009

Martin Rapaport  
Chairman  
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1212 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 1103  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Martin:

I am responding on behalf of the WDC to your letter of December 2, 2009.

The WDC shares your concerns regarding the allegations pertaining to events in the Marange diamond fields in Zimbabwe reported widely, contained in the Human Rights Watch report of June 2009, and the findings contained in the KP review mission report of October 2009. Starting one year ago, the WDC has repeatedly issued public statements, and has responded to numerous requests for interviews on this subject. In each of these statements, the WDC has been firm in condemning acts of violence in Marange, stating repeatedly that it is the job of international bodies to address these allegations of human rights standards, and the job of the KP to address these allegations in that they are indications of substantial non-compliance with KP minimum standards. WDC further stated that if there was no corrective action taken by Zimbabwe, it would not hesitate to call for the suspension of Zimbabwe from the KP. If you wish to read these statements, please visit [www.diamondfacts.org](http://www.diamondfacts.org) where they are archived. The authority and role of the WDC can be found on the WDC web site – [www.worlddiamondcouncil.org](http://www.worlddiamondcouncil.org).

The actions taken during the last plenary session of the KP resulted in the development of a robust work plan for Zimbabwe to address the situation in Marange. These steps include a cessation of exports from Marange until an independent monitor is in place. Work to create terms of reference for the monitor, funding for the monitor's work, and cooperation from the government of Zimbabwe are all in process. Further steps under the work plan include a forensic audit of the KP systems in Zimbabwe, licensing of local workers to dig and to trade in diamonds to provide benefit for the community as well as another review visit to Zimbabwe by a KP team in March 2010 to assess progress in achieving the goals. It should be noted that the Kimberley Process is the *only* international body to officially take up the subject of past events in Marange, and is the only international body with a plan to improve the lives of the community there. Without the KP, this subject might have disappeared from consideration by the international community altogether.

The WDC was created to provide industry participation in the Kimberley Process. As one third of the tri-partite underpinning of the Kimberley Process, the WDC must abide by procedures and decisions reached by a consensus of the KP. To date, the KP has determined that review mission reports should be "confidential." We are in agreement with you that this is not consistent with the transparent nature of the KP. Our newly elected Board of Directors will soon take up a recommendation that the WDC advocate full transparency in the KP, and that all review mission and visit reports be made public after the period of reply by the subject participant has been completed. This recommendation, along with WDC's already established position regarding 2/3 majority voting at the KP as well as the call to select a permanent secretariat will go a long way to improving effective implementation of the KP to stop trade in conflict diamonds.

Many of your recommendations have already been addressed by the WDC, and the Board of Directors will consider your other suggestions.

Thank you for your time and concern about this very important matter.