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Statement by the spokesperson of HR Catherine Ashton following the Intersessional Meeting of the Kimberley Process, 20 to 24 June 2011, Kinshasa

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 EU wishes to reiterate its desire to find a way forward for the Kimberley Process that includes Zimbabwe and preserves the credibility of the process.

The EU has supported Kimberley Process Chair efforts to find an agreement but notes that the text circulated by the KP Chair was not agreed by consensus and is not therefore valid under KP rules and procedures.

The EU recalls that trade in Marange diamonds requires a consensual solution respecting KP decision-making rules and is therefore concerned that the circulation of such non-agreed text may cause confusion for economic operators in the diamond sector.

The EU considers that any agreement needs to provide sufficiently credible basis to bring the whole of the Marange mining area into compliance. This has to be done through a proper application of the KP procedures.

Although KP Participants have not yet been able to reach an agreement, the EU underlines its continued commitment to dialogue with a view to finding rapidly a solution upholding the principles and integrity of the Kimberley Process.

The EU notes that consensus agreement is necessary for diamonds from Marange to be traded under the KP Certification Scheme. "

P R E S S

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