



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **KIMBERLEY PROCESS DECLARES THREE MORE ZONES IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) AS ‘COMPLIANT ZONES’**

**Kimberley Process Chair, Ahmed Bin Sulayem announces that the KP  
CAR Monitoring team has declared three more CAR sub-prefectures,  
Boda, Carnot and Nola are now ‘Compliant Zones’**

**Dubai, UAE:** On 19 September 2016, the Kimberley Process (KP) Monitoring Team declared the sub-prefectures of Boda, Carnot and Nola in Central African Republic (CAR) as ‘Compliant Zones’.

The KP Chair, Ahmed Bin Sulayem has communicated the decision to all KP Participants and Observers. CAR's KP Focal Point has been invited to bring this decision to the attention of customs officials, diamond traders and other relevant stakeholders in the CAR.

The UAE KP Chair said: “This latest good news for CAR comes just five months after the UAE Intersessional meeting, held in Dubai in May, where the KP took a unanimous decision to allow resumption of exports from the sub-prefecture of Berberati. To date, two shipments have been exported from Berberati successfully. Good progress has been made and hopefully we can move forward to a burger normalisation of the situation in the Western Zone of the CAR.”

The KP banned exports of rough diamonds from the entire Central African Republic back in May 2013 after rebels seized control of the country from the then-President François Bozizé and evidence surfaced that these rebels were using sales of diamonds to fund their activities. Diamond mining, particularly alluvial (small-scale) operations, is one of the country's main source of revenue.

In July 2015, the KP agreed in principal that the Central African Republic could resume exports as long as it established "green zones" and put in place procedures to ensure their diamonds could be traced to areas defines as compliant zones. A green of compliant zone is one that is free of conflict and, moreover, one where it is known that diamond revenues are not being funnelled into the hands of rebel groups.

The KP Monitoring Team will seek further contact with CAR's KP Focal Point to confirm the schedule for the team's monthly inspections of export shipments.



Ahmed Bin Sulayem thanked colleagues from the KP Monitoring Team for their important contribution to this new milestone achievement for CAR and the KP family.

**-ENDS-**

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**About the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme**

The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is a collaborative initiative between governments, industry and civil society to stem the flow of conflict diamonds into the diamond trade. Started in 2000, the creation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) in November 2002 laid the foundation for the KPCS by setting out the requirements for controlling rough diamond production and trade. It entered into force in 2003, when participating countries started to implement the rules. There are now 54 participants representing 81 countries including the UAE.

In 2003, the UAE adapted its Federal Law "Union Law no.13 Regarding Supervision of Import/Export and Transit of Rough Diamonds" and became the first Arab country to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The Kimberley Process office in DMCC is the entity authorised by the UAE Ministry of Economy to authenticate the ethical sourcing of rough diamonds traded in the country.