

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

India has assumed the chair of Kimberley Process Certificate Scheme (KPCS) for the period 1.1.2008 to 31.12.2008. India is one of the founding members of KPCS. In November 2006, India was unanimously selected to hold the Vice Chair of the Scheme for 2007 and therefore, Chair of the Scheme for 2008. Namibia has been selected as the Vice Chair for 2008.

India will be sixth in succession to hold the Chair after South Africa, Canada, Russian Federation, Botswana and European Commission. India as KP chair will continue to build on the traditions and conventions of the previous KP chairs and ensure effective implementation of the KPCS scheme, thereby ensuring growth of legitimate diamond trade and protection of livelihoods of millions of people across the globe.

India will extend all possible assistance to participants to build effective internal controls and work in close cooperation with UN, KP participants, industry and civil society in order to continue the remarkable progress achieved by the Scheme in the past few years.