

diamond industry, and consumers. The final Kimberley meeting will be in November 2002, and will launch the Kimberly product. Some may say it took too long, but it was fundamentally successful. The strengths of the process were its inclusiveness (bringing together governments, industry and civil society groups), a common sense of purpose and strong leadership, particularly from South Africa. Its weaknesses were: inclusiveness, when it was difficult to get the right people around the table, and the cultures of governments, industries and civil society clashed; unhelpful side issues, such as an initial problem with the E.U., and the participation of Taiwan; and uncertainties about the process' mandate and it came from.

Viveash said that the lessons learned from the process were that there is a difference between inclusiveness and being open-ended and that democracy has its limits and not everyone can be involved in every decision. Another lesson has been that there is a need to know what the goals are before beginning; as well as what the rules of the game are before sitting down at the table.

From an NGO perspective Ian Smillie, of Partnership Africa Canada, said that some of the lessons learned from the process were that diamonds are not a popular issue. Fortunately the media picked up on the initiative and made it a popular issue, which led the media to report about the conflicts. A second lesson was that NGO campaigns can be very effective, and a good coalition of small, remote NGOs was formed. Thirdly, the diamond industry was willing to engage with the NGOs, fuelled by their engagement at the UN. As well, the UN panel added to the credibility of the NGOs. Another crucial aspect was that South Africa championed the process. They initiated and improved it. Behind the scenes, the U.K. did a lot as well. Lastly, it was an inclusive initiative and NGOs were always allowed to speak.

There are several problems remaining regarding diamonds, Smillie said. Conflict diamonds are only 4 – 10% of the market, but up to 20% of diamonds are illicit, either stolen or smuggled. There remains opportunity for further trouble in the diamond industry. The issue of monitoring and verification is still outstanding. There must be third-party monitoring, and there is no current monitoring system set up. The lack of monitoring in this process is a failure, because the actors are not all honest brokers. He said one objective in pursuing the initiative was to get friendly governments to agree to voluntary monitoring, and embarrass those others into agreeing.

Along with setting up a monitoring mechanism for ensuring the viability of the Kimberley Process, and increasing the capacity of countries such as Angola and Sierra Leone to implement it, other key issues and challenges related to resource-related conflicts in Africa are ensuring that a gender perspective is brought in and raising the level of awareness amongst policy makers, particularly with regard to water issues.

Gaps identified in the general discussion included the need to also look at resources such as oil, and specifically the involvement of Canada's Talisman Energy in the Sudan, to expand and strengthen global economic regulations to protect against black and grey markets, and the corporate accountability scandals in the US, and a need to better examine the role of private security firms and mercenary organizations in resource conflicts.