AFRICAN DIAMOND PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION (ADPA) PRESS RELEASE

ADPA Council of Ministers Concludes 9th Extraordinary Meeting, Endorsing the Sustainable Diamond Mining Standard (SDS) as Africa's First Diamond Mining Standard

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Harare, Zimbabwe, September 30, 2024 – The African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) Council of Ministers has successfully concluded its 9th Extraordinary Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Chaired by the Honorable Winston Chitando (MP), Minister of Mines and Mining Development of Zimbabwe, the three-day event commenced with a special workshop on the ADPA Sustainable Diamond Standard (SDS) held on September 24th, 2024, a Committee of Experts meeting on September 25th, 2024, and concluded with the Council of Minister meeting on the 26th of September 2024.

The Council of Ministers celebrated the successful hosting of the Special Workshop on Sustainable Diamond Standard (SDS). This event united industry experts, government officials, and civil society representatives to discuss strategies for promoting sustainable and responsible diamond production by the ADPA Member States. The SDS workshop focussed on the key aspects of SDS, scope and compliance requirements as well as challenges and opportunities of implementation of the SDS.

Among its key resolutions, the Council of Ministers reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable diamond mining practices by recommending the SDS as the first African diamond mining standard. The implementation of the SDS will be phased beginning in 2025, in ADPA Member States, focusing on both the artisanal and small-scale mining sector (ASM), which is vital to many ADPA member states, as well as large scale miners (LSM).

Another key resolution made by the Council of Ministers was on the proposed participation of ADPA in the informal Diamond Dialogue Platform which is being set up by BRICS.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers will be hosted by Sierra Leone, in April 2025. Following two years of implementation of reforms in ADPA and establishment of the Executive Directorate, among other key strategic initiatives, the Republic of Zimbabwe will hand over the baton of the Chairmanship of ADPA to Sierra Leone, in Freetown, in April 2025.